



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



January 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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WISCONSIN, Southeast

WIZ052-059>060

Sheboygan - Washington - Ozaukee

09 0600CST
10 0600CST

0 0

Heavy Snow

Low pressure moving northeast through Illinois and Indiana produced a prolonged period of snow over a part of eastcentral and southeast Wisconsin. The system's snow was enhanced by moisture input from Lake Michigan due to a northeast flow of air in the lower atmosphere. Newburg (Washington co.) picked up 8.2 inches, while both Sheboygan (Sheboygan co.) and Port Washington gathered 8 inches. Otherwise 4 to 7 inches fell east of a line from Green Bay to Janesville. Interstate-43 in Sheboygan county was closed for 1.5 hours in the morning due to the intense snowfall at that time. Many vehicles ended up in roadside ditches and there were many accidents. There were 10 indirectly-related deaths due to the accidents. The 6.5 inches at Milwaukee was the first substantial snowfall of the season.

WIZ071

Racine

15 0000CST
2359CST

0 0

Heavy Snow

Two upper-level weather disturbances swept across southeast Wisconsin and produced two separate periods of snow. Eventually 8 inches was recorded in the city of Racine. There was no snowfall in the 3 hour period of 1200-1500 CST. Outside of Racine county snow amounts of 4 to 7 inches were noted southeast of a line from Janesville to Sheboygan

WIZ052-058>060-
063>066-069>072

Sheboygan - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha

16 0200CST
1700CST

0 0

Other

Frequent ground blizzard conditions affected the rural areas of southcentral and southeast Wisconsin as bitter cold air poured into this area on northwest winds gusting to 40 mph. Whiteout conditions, due to blowing snow, stopped traffic on I-94 in Kenosha county before daybreak. Traffic was also brought to a standstill in rural points of Racine county during the late afternoon hours. Elsewhere, whiteout conditions slowed or stopped traffic at times. Temperatures plunged from 22 degrees in Milwaukee at 1am to only 4 above by the noon hour. Madison dropped to 2 above by noon. Wind chills fell to 25 below to 40 below. Many rural schools were closed.

WIZ046>047-051>052-
056>060-062>072

Marquette - Green Lake - Fond Du Lac - Sheboygan - Sauk - Columbia - Dodge - Washington - Ozaukee - Iowa - Dane - Jefferson - Waukesha - Milwaukee - Lafayette - Green - Rock - Walworth - Racine - Kenosha

17 0000CST
2359CST

0 3 20K

Extreme Cold

The coldest arctic air of the winter season enveloped southeast and southcentral Wisconsin, resulting in many school closings and cancellation of evening activities. There were 3 frostbite injury cases reported in Milwaukee county. Maximum temperatures only reached zero at Madison and 5 above at Milwaukee, roughly 20 degrees below normal. Morning lows in the 7 below to 14 below range, coupled with northwest winds of 10 to 20 mph, generated wind chills of 30 below to 50 below zero. A water pipe froze in a Watertown (Dodge county) church. The resulting flooding damaged the building's 2nd and 3rd floors. Electrical lines in the cities of North Fond du Lac (Fond du Lac county), and Sheboygan (Sheboygan county) contracted and snapped due to the extreme cold air. About 2000 customers were without power for about 1 hour.